

The Asia Foundation
Combating Trafficking of Women and Children
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PROGRESS REPORT
April - June 2003

Summary of program activities in the current reporting period:

- **Additional districts**
- **District-based prevention**
- **Safe migration**
- **Task force**
- **Rehabilitation and reintegration**
- **Networking**
- **New publications**
- **Monitoring and program support**

Additional districts

Makwanpur and Kabre districts were added to the anti trafficking project through a modification on May 1, 2003 to the USAID grant. The modification supports Foundation subgrants to partner CeLRRd for activities in Makwanpur and to partner NGO Federation for activities in Kabre, starting May 15, 2003.

District-based prevention

During this reporting period, ABC Nepal held five street plays in Nepali, on anti trafficking and gender issues, and conducted a workshop for 25 elected women representatives and potential leaders in the first week of May in Dhanusha. This partner has also reported a large number of community-generated initiatives, including rallies and group formation for advocacy on issues of common concern for communities and the anti trafficking task forces.

During May and June, partner CeLRRd conducted student teachers' training and transport workers' training in Dhanusha and Banke districts; a series of NGO-CBO workshops in target VDCs; and teachers' orientation on trafficking. In preparation for activities in the newly-added district of Makwanpur, CeLRRd conducted a baseline survey and engaged in formation of district and VDC-level anti trafficking task forces in the district. CeLRRd continues to provide legal aid and referral for vulnerable groups and individuals.

Maiti Nepal conducted two cross-sectoral meetings with various stakeholders on anti trafficking; training for adolescent girls; and two training sessions for transport workers who move frequently across the Nepal-India border and who are mainly rickshaw pullers, tonga (horsecart) drivers, and autorickshaw (tempo) drivers.

In preparation for activities in the newly-added district of Kabre, NGO Federation conducted an NGO orientation and district selection program, which included invitees from local NGOs, stakeholders and line agency heads like the chief and local development officers of the district. In Dhading, four workshops on conceptual clarity were conducted under the community education component of the project, reaching

100 adolescent girls. NGO Federation also conducted orientation on the anti trafficking project for their district chapter in Makwanpur.

WOREC provided leadership and gender orientation training to adolescent girls from Chitwan and Banke districts in April. These girls will be key to the next phase of activities in their districts. Refresher training was conducted for social mobilizers from all five NGOs in Udaipur. This was followed by advocacy training during June 8-13 in Kathmandu for WOREC senior staff, in order to better target advocacy to line agencies and other stakeholders in the community.

Safe migration

WOREC organized cross-sectoral interaction and training on safe migration in Kathmandu on June 16, 2003. The 40 participants came from NGOs, UNIFEM, foreign employment agencies, trade unions, and Ministry and Department of Labor. Discussions revolved around coordination of activities through various stakeholders on safe migration and identification of mutual roles in orientating migrant workers. WOREC shared safe migration training manuals and kit developed with Asia Foundation support. Key issues discussed included: need for IEC materials and general awareness through hoardings on safe migration and proper dissemination at the grass roots level; need for ratification of the Migrant Convention by the Nepali government; need for preparatory work on pre-departure training including health issues and occupational safety to include key NGOs already working in these areas; orientation to migrants on due process for foreign employment and survival in foreign lands; need for Labor Attachés in countries with more than 5000 Nepali workers; and need for bilateral agreements with countries of destination.

As a result of this interaction, WOREC was included as a resource for pre departure orientation, especially on anti trafficking and safe migration; participants recommended adoption in the government curriculum of IEC materials and training manual prepared by WOREC under this project; and foreign employment seekers have begun to request the self-help kit developed by WOREC in increasing numbers, which may soon necessitate reprints. WOREC is now also on the government's committee on migration, which includes four companies and the Ministry of Labor.

NGO Federation organized a day-long interaction for 21 counselors of Maiti Nepal, ABC Nepal, WOREC, and CVICT at the CVICT office on May 2, 2003. This session was held in order to exchange ideas and obtain guidance for NGO Federation's migration counselors. Also in May, the Federation conducted one workshop each for VDC-level task forces in Banke, Dhanusha, and Nawalparasi districts; and organized a two-day orientation on safe mobility for employment agencies from Banke, Chitwan, Dhanusha, and Nawalparasi districts, for more than 100 representatives from hotel, manpower companies, travel agencies, and the media. NGO Federation migration counselors in all five districts continued to provide orientation and consultation to youths and potential migrants.

Task Force

The VDC-level task forces in 10 VDCs of Nawalparasi district have strategized their future activities and held ward-level awareness programs in coordination with ABC Nepal. They now hold monthly meetings focusing on anti trafficking, and have been active partners in co-organizing street plays, mass rallies, and sensitization programs.

ABC Nepal maintains close contact with the Women's Development Office and the District Task Force for all anti trafficking programs in the district.

CeLRRd provided technical support to VDC task forces for implementing their action programs. After identification of vulnerable communities and pockets, VDC task forces have been conducting daylong anti-trafficking advocacy program in each community and pocket. Communities are now quite aware about VDC task forces. With the completion of one phase of the program, community screening of telefilm reaching 5000 people in four VDCs and ward-level legal literacy programs have been conducted. Other activities include *Lok Dohari* competition on the theme of human trafficking by five VDC task forces reaching thousands of community residents, an anti trafficking rally and a street drama in Chandibhanjyang VDC, and putting up of a hoarding board with anti human trafficking messages. In April, a consultative workshop was held with the district task forces in coordination with VDC task force representatives to orient newly appointed local development and women development officers about CeLRRd's programs.

Maiti Nepal initiated the formation of nine VDC task forces/Vigilance committees. Activities were undertaken to orient task force members to better coordinate VDC and police actions in the process of identification and prosecuting perpetrators.

NGO Federation conducted three workshops on anti trafficking sensitization for six VDC task forces in Dhading, with participation of 71 task force members.

WOREC formed and oriented ten VDC task forces through a two-day workshop in each of its target VDCs. In the last week of June, WOREC and DDC task force members jointly organized a meeting to interact with the newly-appointed National Rapporteur on Trafficking at the National Human Rights Commission, share information on initiatives taken by various organizations in Dhanusa district on the issue of trafficking, share action plans prepared by the 10 VDC task forces, and plan activities for the DDC task force to raise awareness on trafficking. Participants included the district's Chief, Local and Women's Development Officers; Senior Superintendent of Police; NGOs including WOREC, ABC Nepal, and Maiti Nepal; and the National Rapporteur on Trafficking. Key line agency heads in the district committed to providing orientation on anti trafficking to the VDC secretaries of 101 VDCs in Dhanusa district through members of the DDC task force. Another outcome of the meeting was that the DDC task force members decided to meet every two months instead of every three months.

Rehabilitation and reintegration

Trainees under CVICT's psychosocial counseling program have been conducting regular counseling of new entrants at the centers of Maiti Nepal, ABC Nepal, and WOREC, and have so far been successful in easing them into a new setup and on the road to recovery. CVICT maintains linkage with these partner organizations on difficult cases, and continues to provide support services.

The joint operational review of Maiti Nepal was completed and a summary report prepared by consultant John Frederick was released. The aim of the joint initiative was to strengthen Maiti Nepal's care and support system. Based on the review and in-

depth discussions about Maiti's needs and weaknesses, an action plan for donors has been drafted (attached to hardcopy of this report).

Networking

The National Network Against Girls Trafficking (NNAGT) organized a talk program on "Problems and Challenges in Rescue and Rehabilitation of Trafficked Survivors" at Hotel Orchid in Kathmandu on June 4, 2003. The 60 participants included representatives from the National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Women Children, and Social Welfare, media, NGOs, and INGOs.

NNAGT staff participated in various forums and programs at the regional and national level, including the SAPATH meeting in Kathmandu and the regional cross border workshop in Birgunj, and presented a paper at the UNIFEM/ South Asia Regional Office meeting. NNAGT has updated its national-level mapping exercise on organizations contributing in the area of women in development, and has generated four additional district-level maps in Ilam, Ramechhap, Siraha, and Nawalparasi districts. It also continued to publish its quarterly bulletins on women concerns.

The anti-trafficking district networks established through NGO Federation district chapters are actively engaged in providing anti-trafficking sensitization in the community.

Publications

NGO Federation and WOREC are in the final stages of preparation for two youth resource guides that provide lucid and reader friendly information and guidance to youth on anti trafficking and safe migration. These will be published in the next quarter. In addition, WOREC has produced two safe migration posters (attached to hardcopy of this report).

Monitoring and program support

The Foundation's program officer visited Dhanusha district in the first week of June to observe training for transport workers conducted by CeLRRd, training for Elected Women Representatives conducted by ABC Nepal, and training for VDC task forces of three VDCs conducted by WOREC. The USAID CTO and other concerned officials were also present.

Also in June, Foundation staff conducted monitoring visits to the CeLRRd field office and the teacher-student orientations in Mugling VDC in Chitwan, and the ABC Nepal field office in Nawalparasi.